



Indiana Department of Environmental Management

IDEM's Biosecurity Policy

January 10, 2002

Purpose and Scope

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) recognizes the importance of maintaining effective biosecurity procedures to prevent the spread of disease. To this extent, IDEM staff have met with Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) to develop an effective biosecurity policy for IDEM. IDEM's policy is in compliance with all BOAH and United States Department of Agriculture recommendations and incorporates additional safeguards. The purpose of this Policy is to establish procedures for all IDEM staff when visiting farms. The policy establishes three biosecurity levels with appropriate minimum biosecurity measures for each level. Most IDEM activity at farms will fall into Level 1 or Level 2.

Biosecurity Levels

Routine levels of biosecurity measures are detailed below. When in doubt as to which level of biosecurity is needed, choose the higher level.

Level 1

Applicability: Visits to livestock facilities, which involve office or home visits only, no contact with livestock or animal housing.

Procedures:

- Do not visit sites where animals are present or will be present if you have traveled outside of the United States in the previous five days.
- Keep a record of all farms you have visited. In the event of a disease outbreak, this will assist with epidemiological investigations.
- Avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc., unless it is necessary to achieve the goal of the visit. If these areas can not be avoided then level 2 biosecurity procedures must be implemented.
- Ensure your vehicle is kept clean. Park vehicles in a clean, dry area away from animal production areas. Avoid driving in mud, manure, or feed.
- If shoes, clothing, or the vehicle are contaminated with waste, staff must clean the equipment before the next site visit. Neither staff nor a producer should enter a state vehicle without taking precautions to prevent the tracking of mud or manure into the vehicle (such as wearing a disposable plastic boot over contaminated boots, or removing contaminated boots). If a vehicle is required to access the area to be visited, the first choice should be to use the producer's vehicle if staff and producer are comfortable doing so.

- Always make a reasonable effort to contact someone at the facility either prior to, or upon, arrival at a facility (before conducting the site visit) to verify the disease status of an operation. If unable to reach anyone with the facility, staff may conduct the site visit, as appropriate, following the appropriate biosecurity level. If no one can be located once arriving at the facility, staff should upgrade biosecurity to level 2 requirements. The producer should always be encouraged to accompany staff while the site visit is conducted.
- If a disease problem is identified at the facility, IDEM staff should not visit another facility the same day. Exceptions may be made after consultation with the BOAH.
- If an outbreak of any priority disease is identified during the visit, staff should immediately contact the BOAH at 1-877-747-3038 and ask for a veterinarian prior to leaving the farm to determine actions to be taken to prevent the spread of disease.

Level 2

Applicability: Visits to livestock areas where minimal contact with livestock or their housing is unavoidable to achieve the goal of the visit. Contact constitutes close proximity to animal housing or walking through manure or on ground where animals have access. Agricultural and Solid Waste Compliance Staff, Solid Waste Permit Staff, Emergency Response On-Scene Coordinators, must always follow at least level 2 biosecurity.

Procedures:

- Follow all level 1 biosecurity measures.
- Immediately put on new disposable boots upon exiting the vehicle.
- Once the site visit is complete, disposable boots should be disposed at the farm or placed in a plastic bag and placed in a designated “dirty” area of the vehicle and disposed prior to visiting another farm.
- After returning to your vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment that came into contact with animals, animal waste or feed with a brush and approved disinfectant solution. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground or in a ditch, unless allowed by the label.
- Schedule at least 48 hours between visits to poultry operations when possible. Exceptions may be made in cases of complaints or spill responses.
- When possible, staff should visit several facilities belonging to the same producer on the same day. Staff should attempt to minimize the need to visit multiple producers on the same day if possible.
- Staff should follow live production cycles or site routing as specified by the producer.

Level 3

Applicability: Visits to livestock areas where there will be close contact with livestock. This includes contact such as entering confinement buildings or pens or handling/inspecting animals.

IDEM staff should not enter livestock buildings under any condition unless pre-approved by the Agricultural and Solid Waste Compliance Section Chief or Emergency Response Tertiary Manager. Confinement buildings should never be entered during routine inspections conducted for the purpose of monitoring compliance with CFO rules and laws.

Procedures:

- Follow all level 2 biosecurity measures.
- Use clean coveralls, in addition to boots, for each area visited.
- Dispose of disposable coveralls between site visits or place non-disposable used coveralls within a garbage bag located in a “dirty” area of the vehicle. Coveralls must be laundered prior to re-use.
- IDEM staff should avoid visiting another farm for 48 hours after a level 3 visits. The ASWCS and/or Emergency Response Section Chiefs will be responsible for assigning alternative personnel to conduct any farm visits which are necessary in a territory after an inspector or OSC (On Scene Coordinator) has been involved in a level 3 site visit.

Even if not required by the livestock owner, the above policy must be followed by all IDEM staff. Potentially affected staff should maintain a readily accessible supply of disposable plastic boots. Additional biosecurity apparel required by the operation, in addition to disposable boots, must be provided by the facility. Always document all biosecurity requirements on a farm, which are above and beyond those listed here.

Common sense should always prevail. If in doubt regarding biosecurity measures in a specific situation, staff should contact the Board of Animal Health and ask for a veterinarian.

Site Specific Biosecurity Plans

Individual farms may have additional site specific biosecurity requirements. IDEM staff should always review the site file for submission of a site specific biosecurity plan. IDEM staff should follow any reasonable site specific plans if at all possible. Conflicts should be referred to the Agricultural and Solid Waste Compliance Section Chief (ASWCSC) and BOAH for resolution. Components of a site specific biosecurity plan may include, but are not limited to, some or all of the following, which are above the requirements specified above:

- Visitor entry and/or parking locations
- Site visit order based on live production cycle
- Prior animal exposure restrictions
- Clothing requirements more strict than above biosecurity levels
- Showering facilities (note staff will not be entering livestock confinement buildings)

The site specific biosecurity plan should not be considered a vehicle to place notification requirements on IDEM staff. The purpose of submitting the biosecurity plans is for IDEM staff to be aware of concerns on site during a site visit. While IDEM staff will frequently contact facilities prior to performing a site visit, IDEM staff have the authority to conduct unannounced inspections and are not bound by notification requirements which may be placed in a site specific biosecurity plan.

Priority Disease

If an outbreak of any priority disease is identified within the state, as determined by the State Veterinarian, IDEM staff will cease routine site visits until contact with the BOAH has determined a disease specific State response plan.

Important Numbers:

Agricultural and Solid Waste Compliance Section, Chief
(800) 451-6027, extension 308-3045

IDEM 24-hour Spill Line
(888) 233-7745

Board of Animal Health
(877) 747-3038 or (317) 227-3000